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QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Report of the Secretary-General

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* Transmitted by the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA*

[Original: English]

[10 August 1993]

1. The African Group of States Members of the United Nations submits herewith its position on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council (General Assembly resolution 47/62), as decided by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fifty-eighth ordinary session, which convened at Cairo in June 1993.

2. Africa supports the current efforts aimed at ensuring a more balanced composition in the membership of the Security Council. In this context, the Group of African States is strongly in favour of any initiative that will ensure equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, for the following reasons:

(a) The Security Council is playing an ever increasing and crucial role in the efforts of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) The need for greater and broader involvement of the United Nations membership in the Council's decision-making process;

(c) The substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations;

(d) The realization of the overall need to continue the revitalization of the organs of the United Nations based on the principles, purposes and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, taking into account the changes taking place in the world;

(e) The need to ensure equitable geographical distribution.

3. In view of the increased involvement of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, conferred on it by the States Members of the Organization as a whole, it is increasingly important that the Council's work should reflect the provision in Article 24 of the Charter that "in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf".

4. In this connection, it is Africa's view that there should be an emphasis on the value of maintaining transparency in the Council's deliberative and decision-making processes.

5. Therefore, the agenda of informal consultations should be made available to all Members of the United Nations. There should also be greater utilization of formal meetings, to enable all Members to participate.

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* Transmitted by the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group.

6. It is the view of the Group of African States that the Council's membership should be enlarged by increasing both permanent and non-permanent seats.

7. Efforts should be made to eliminate the veto prerogative. If maintained, the additional permanent members should be granted the same status as the current five permanent members of the Council, and efforts to limit the use of the veto to certain specific issues only should be seriously pursued.

8. As far as the allocation of additional Security Council seats is concerned, Africa should have two permanent seats with all privileges attached to permanent membership, and more non-permanent seats.

9. The African Group is of the view that the conclusion of the negotiations leading to the enlargement of the Security Council should be planned to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, that is, in 1995.